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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A laser irradiation target for the manufacture of carbon nanotubes by laser ablation, said target comprising:

a fullerene powder; and

a catalyst powder pressed together with said fullerene powder to form a pellet,

wherein said laser irradiation target comprises said catalyst powder in a range of 4.5 at % and 5.5 at %.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target as claimed in claim 13, wherein said fullerene powder comprises a C₆₀ fullerene.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target as claimed in claim 13, wherein said catalyst powder comprises one of Ni and Co.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target as claimed in claim 13, wherein said

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catalyst powder comprises a transition metal.

20. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target as claimed in claim 13, wherein said laser irradiation target comprises about 5 at % catalyst powder.

21. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target according to claim 13, wherein said catalyst powder comprises a Ni catalyst.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target as claimed in claim 13, wherein said catalyst powder comprises a Co catalyst.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation target for the manufacture of carbon nanotubes by laser ablation, said target comprising:

a fullerene powder; and

a catalyst powder pressed together with said fullerene powder to form a pellet,

wherein said laser irradiation target forms a carbon nanotube when subjected to laser ablation, and

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wherein said catalyst powder comprises Co in a predetermined range of at %.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target as claimed in claim 26, wherein said fullerene powder comprises pure polycrystalline powder of C₆₀ fullerene.

30. (Currently Amended) The laser irradiation target as claimed in claim 26, wherein said catalyst powder further comprises ~~at least one of Ni and Co.~~

31. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target as claimed in claim 26, wherein said laser irradiation target comprises about 5 at. % catalyst powder.

32. (Previously Presented) A laser irradiation target comprising:

a fullerene powder; and

a catalyst powder combined with said fullerene powder to form a solid unit,

wherein said laser irradiation target comprises said catalyst powder in a range of

4.5 at % and 5.5 at %, and

wherein said target forms a carbon nanotube when subjected to a laser ablation.

33. (Canceled)

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34. (Previously Presented) A laser irradiation target, comprising:

a three dimensional structure of carbon atoms having a plurality of 5-member carbon rings and a substantially hollow truncated-icosahedron geometric shape; and

a catalyst powder mixed with said three dimensional structure to form a solid unit having the catalyst powder in a range of 4.5 at % to 5.5 at %.

35. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target according to claim 13, wherein said catalyst powder comprises Ni and Co.

36. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation target according to claim 13, wherein said pellet comprises a diameter of about 1 cm. and a thickness of 5 mm.